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PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Administrative authority to approve preparatory assistance to global projects

Recommendation of the Administrator

I. BACKGROUND

1. As members of the Governing Council are aware, preliminary work is done on preparatory global assistance projects before the Council approves full financial support for their implementation. In paragraph 5 of its decision 78/5 of 19 June 1978, the Council approved the proposal to increase to $75,000 authorization for the Administrator to incur expenditure on preparatory work for global programmes in a given field without recourse to the Council on a case-by-case basis. Since that time, the authority has been delegated to the Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Programmes. In paragraph 2, section III, of its decision 80/22 of 26 June 1980, in keeping with the recommendations contained in document DP/456, the Council increased the authority to $125,000 for preparatory activities to assess the feasibility of developing a viable global research project.

2. In its decision 92/25 of 25 May 1992, the Governing Council approved the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle. A number of new initiatives are being launched which have necessitated the approval of preparatory assistance projects. The activities under these projects include the recruitment of short-term consultants and their mission travel, the organization of workshops/symposiums, feasibility studies, technical advisory support and services and evaluation missions.

3. The global indicative planning figure has risen from $63 million in the third programming cycle to $112 million for the fifth cycle, reflecting in

part the escalating costs of short-term consultancy services and the increased time required for preparatory work on research-oriented global projects. In view of these factors, the effectiveness of global project design and formulation would be enhanced if the authority granted to the Administrator were increased from the present level of $125,000 to $250,000 for all global preparatory assistance projects.

II. RECOMMENDATION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

4. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve this increase.